

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
February 23, 2017
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
Governor's H.B. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFORE
Bob Gompper, East Hartford, CT

Good afternoon Senator Osten and Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Bob Gompper and I am a lifelong resident of East Hartford. I worked for 27 years for one family-owned business, that was bought by a corporation. Things got tough for me after that. I had a hard time getting into other companies that provided the same service, because of my age. Once I did find a new place and had worked there for 3 years, they ended up laying people off and eventually closed the business.

Around that time, I developed medical issues that made it so I could no longer stand and do the work that I used to do with ease. I got a job out in Wallingford, working with a service manager who already knew me and my work ethic. Thanks to my new and challenging health concerns, I just couldn't do the work. What started as social drinking turned into much more with the stress of not being able to work. Family stopped talking to me. I had no hope and no future.

After six months of rehab, I decided I would never drink again. I became homeless for more than a year. These were the toughest, darkest days of my entire life.

I found InterCommunity, came out of my dark days, knowing that things would get better. Programming like the Intensive Outpatient Program, Case Management and groups at Common Ground helped me repair my mind from damage I had done from alcohol abuse. Ever since then, I have been grateful for InterCommunity and their services. If I don't have some place to go to continue to work on things, I don't know what would happen.

Today I have obtained stable housing and I have learned numerous skills to avoid relapse and continue getting stronger. I even help others now. My family also has started talking to me since they realized I was getting the help that I need. Please don't forget about the people and families that need important services to help them recover.